

Samuel Couper House
On the Strand #14
New Castle, Delaware

HABS No. Del-112

HABS
DEL.

2. NEWCA

37-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Delaware

HABS
DEL

2- NEWCA

34

SAMUEL COUPER HOUSE (Residence and Store)
#14 Strand, New Castle, Delaware

Owner: James Morrison Estate

Date of Erection: Between 1825 and 30

Builder: Samuel Couper

Present Condition: General/ good. Unfortunately, portion of front wall was removed recently to make a loggia.

Number of Stories: Cellar; Three stories below cornice, one above.

Materials of Construction: Brick; shingled roof; interior plastered; usual woodwork of period. Brick chimneys on gables. Two rather large semi-circular head dormer windows on front. Service wing in rear two and one half stories in height.

Other Existing Records: Offices of Recorder of Deeds and Register of Wills of New Castle County.

Additional Data: This house is interesting because it was designed to serve two purposes, residence and store. Above the first story are two floors of living and bedrooms. Formerly on the front first story, was on the left, an entrance door to the residential portion, then a store with its entrance flanked by a window on either side; then on the extreme right a door, which with the adjoining windows still in place was a passage, leading to the garden. The store was just above the pavement and lower than the balance of the first story. The store itself was cut off from the rest of the house except by a winding staircase leading to a single, small bedroom, and thence to the attic storage rooms for the store merchandise. Quite a number of photographs have been made of the interior, illustrating the interesting mantel pieces, doorways and wood trim generally, in order to show in particular the change which had taken place in the character of the work during that style which may be called Greek Revival. The variety and individuality displayed in the mantel pieces is notable, and shows versatility and conscientious workmanship. This period in New Castle Architecture is worthy of stress as being equal in quality and interest to the earlier Colonial and post Colonial periods. The rebuilding due to the New Castle fire combined with the building incidental to the increasing prosperity of the city, created an architectural revival.

The craftsmanship is particularly good in the small bedroom or clerk's room on the east corner of the second story, with its fireplace and ample closet room, as illustrated in two of the accompanying photographs. 2. NEWCA 37.

Laussat R. Rogers

Approved

Walter H. Blake
District Officer

Rev. Feb. 2.37 - HAW